Short Circuits

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Post Office Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
T. A. R. C
Titusville, Florida

June

~~May~~, 2007

Club Officers

Club Call: K4KSC

Pres: AD1S 269-3621 Don Spade dspade@cfl.rr.com	V.P. W5EDP 383-3107 Ed Parker hkranch@adelphia.net	Tres: KI4CFA 632-4601 Mic Woltman mjwoltman@mindspring.com	Sec: KI4GMF 268-2107 Cathy Johnson Alncat007@netzero.net
Board, W4EPU 269-4208 Pike Abell pikeetal@digital.net	Board, K4CUO 267-8876 Bill Hoskinson bhoskinson@cfl.rr.com	Board, W4RBI 271-4500 Gary Johnson GaryJay990@aol.com	Board, W4REN 639-5157 Jan Ferguson W4ren@aol.com
146.91 Rptr, KI4CFA Mic Woltman 632-4601	146.97 Rptr, W4CEL Warren Murray 268-2199	444.15 Rptr, KI4DYJ Rob McKiness 264-8917	147.775 Rptr, KD4HNW Ken Denman, 269-5711

Club Meeting: 4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Titusville Public Library, 2121 S. Hopkins Ave.

"Eating Meeting" every Thursday, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
at the roving restaurant. Talk in: 146.91.

Next Club Meeting: July 24, 2007

President's Report

Well it is that time again, time for another newsletter. The big news for this month was our Field Day operation. Gary, W4RBI, chaired the effort to get things rolling and as always the club members pitched in and supported the effort. It is always great for me to see the team work that takes place for any of the events that occur. The club looks good because of the participation of so many members. We also need to thank Gary, Rob and Jan for putting out the effort to get the 91 machine linked to echo link. Again members working together to make things happen. The whole club benefits from these efforts. A hearty thank you to the guys and gals that make things happen. I look forward to next month to report on the fun that everyone had at the field day event. Congratulations on a very successful and enjoyable Field day!

Don Spade, AD1S

April Minutes

On May 22, TARC held its monthly meeting. It was a different meeting without our president. May K4CWG rest in peace as a Silent Key.

Our first order of business was Field Day. It will be held on June 23&24 at the Titusville well field site. This year's chairman is Gary Johnson, W4RBI. Gary asked for help, and Bill K4CUO and Bob K4WSJ volunteered.

Next, Rob reported that Echolink is up and running.

The club held an election to fill the office of president. Don Spade, AD1S, was unanimously elected. We then had an election to replace Don as vice president. Ed Parker, W5EDP, was elected. Congratulations were extended to both officers.

73, Cathy, KI4GMF

And a Good Time was Had by All!!

Field Day 2007 was celebrated in style by TARC!

Chairman Gary Johnson led the effort at the Titusville well field site used for the past several years. The Field Day committee met Friday morning to plan the operation. Saturday morning, Warren, W4CEL, led a crew of volunteers putting up antennas, shelters, and two operating stations. Jim, K9VN, supplied a complete station and a G5RV antenna, and Holland, W4MBM, supplied an Icom 706, tuner and power supply for the other station position.

Photos by Fred, K4DII

As usual, Saturday night's BBQ dinner, with all the trimmings, was the outstanding event of the weekend. There was more food than we could eat (although we certainly did try), including some scrumptious desserts.

TARC operators made about 300 contacts, 70 CW and 230 SSB, during the 24-hour event.

Special thanks are due to Sherry, KU4ZO, who supplied most of the antennas, coax, tables, chairs, and other equipment (and breakfast on Sunday morning!), and to Fred, K4DII, for the use of the quietest, most efficient generator most of us have ever seen.

Abell's Anecdotes, by Pike Abell, W4EPU

While attending Memorial Day ceremonies, I couldn't help but become reminiscent of some of my own experiences during World War II. At the time, security would not permit writing home about it. So, I kept notes of some of the more impressive events.

With your permission, I shall share with you a few notes from my scrapbook.

"At about daybreak we were awakened by the Battery C three inch Anti-Aircraft guns firing from Bunker Hill, just above us. By the time we got dressed, the bombs were exploding all around us. We all hit the floor. The closest hit was the barracks a hundred feet or so adjacent to us. The noise sounded like a thousand two-by-four's breaking all at once. The barracks was completely engulfed in flames…"

"Zero fighters relentlessly strafed the hill on which we were located as well as other areas. Several strafing zero-fighters flew within 50 to 100 feet of my foxhole. One was so close I could see the pilot and could almost see the expression on his face. I had time to fire one clip, eight rounds, with my M-1 rifle at each passing fighter and reload in time for the next…"

"A devastating, but spectacular sight was the dive bombers making their bombing runs. They scored direct hits on huge petroleum storage tanks with the ensuing spectacular explosions and fires…"

These and many other scenes have been forever imprinted in my mind. But mostly, they seem to return each year around Memorial Day.

73s es 88s

Ducie Island DXpedition

The Daily DX reports that the Ducie Island DXpedition Team, VP6DX, has been busy behind the scenes preparing for the much anticipated *February 2008 DXpedition*. It was also announced that the VP6DX team decided to extend the duration of the DXpedition.

Plans are to depart Mangareva Island, part of the Gambier Islands in French Polynesia, via ship on February 5, 2008 and head for Pitcairn Island. This trip normally takes about 36 hours. The operators will spend a few hours on Pitcairn before taking another 36 hour trip boat ride to Ducie Island; they plan to arrive at sunrise on February 9, and hope to be up and running within 24 hours. The team needs to be back on Mangareva by March 3. If all goes well, including the weather, they will have VP6 on the air for as long as 19 days. There is a slight chance of a short visit to another uninhabited island if things on Ducie slow down.

Henderson Island (also VP6, not a separate DXCC entity) is the only island on the way to and from Ducie Island.

Pitcairn Island is home to the descendants of the *H.M.S. Bounty*, which was scuttled in Pitcairn's harbor in 1789 after Fletcher Christian and most of the *Bounty's* crew mutinied against Lt. William Bligh, Master of the Bounty.

Before satellite communications became possible, most contact with the outside world for Pitcairn Islanders was by radiotelegraph. Tom Christian, VP6TC, a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian, was the island's telegrapher (and an excellent CW operator).

The Tower

Dear Acme Insurance Company:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for Block 3 of the Accident Report Form (ARF) I submitted to you on April 1st. I put "poor planning" as the cause for the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully. I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went back to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in Block 11 of the Accident Report Form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise at suddenly being jerked off the ground by the 300-pound bucket, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and in spite of my pain, I was able to hold on to the rope. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight, shown in Block 11 of my submission.

As you might imagine, I now began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope . . . . .

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781-0073

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TARC Local Nets

Red Eye Net:	**7.228 Mhz**	**- Sunday, 0600**
Friendship Net:	**146.91 Mhz**	**- Tuesday, 1830**
Mosquito Net:	**28.333 Mhz**	**- Wednesday, 1900**
VIP Net:	**146.91 Mhz**	**- Thursday, 1000**

Other Local Nets

ARES/RACES	**147.135 Mhz**	**- Wednesday, 0900**
ARES/RACES	**147.135 Mhz**	**- Wednesday, 1900 IRARC**
ARES/RACES	**147.135 Mhz**	**- Wednesday, 1915**
ATV Net	**146.940 Mhz**	**- Wednesday, 1945**

TARC Flea Market

For Sale (or possible trade) by original owner:

Mint condition Ten-Tec Orion (Original version) with built in antenna tuner, 1.8KHZ and 500HZ roofing filters, Heil BM-10-5 mic/headset and Heil handheld PTT switch included - $2,500. Also, Mint condition Ten-Tec Jupiter with built in antennae tuner (no microphone), $900.

Both radios pick up (try before you buy) only in East Orlando. I am looking for an EZ WAY 40ft or 50ft tilt-over/crank up tower with the "wonder ground post"... Call Ken (NT0Y) at (407) 677-4022 in Orlando, FL (mornings) or email at alrightythenken@webtv.net